

**Concordia University
Faculty of Fine Arts Council
Minutes of the Meeting of March 17, 2006**

Present: C. Wild (Chair), L. Berezowsky, D. Berthiaume, Y. Bilodeau, C. De Grandpre, A. Dutkewych, R. Ellias, B. Foss, D. Jojich, R. Kenneally, R. Kerr, W. Krol, L. Lerner, Z. Levinson, E. Little, C. Milot, M. Murphy-Perron, S. Paikowsky, K. Perry, G. Powell, R. Reid, M. Reinhart, G. Schwartz, M. Singer, S. Snow, T. Stathopoulos, T. Waugh

Absent: A. Cappelluto, R. Cross, A. Fairchild, A. Fagnoli, R. Lachapelle, M. Longford, C. MacKenzie, T. Misu, D. Oxley

Guests: B. Black, J-P Duchesne, K. Adams

1. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair informed Council that Dr. Singer would be attending the meeting (item 8 on the agenda), though he would be arriving early and this would change the order of the agenda. The agenda was then approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes of February 17, 2006

There was one correction: Z. Levinson re-emphasized that the Faculty of Fine Arts needs to ensure a review/renewal of the technical support staff and bring it to the attention of the University.

MOTION: (R. Kenneally, R. Kerr)

“that the minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2006, as corrected, be approved.”

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

- As Associate Dean Cappelluto was not present for this meeting, she will report to Council regarding the pilot project “Aid to Scholarly Publication Support” at a future meeting.
- Dr. Lajeunesse was unable to be present at today’s Council meeting, and will be invited to a future meeting.
- The Dean’s presentation to the Board of Governors was delayed because the March meeting was cancelled. She will make her presentation to the Board in April or May.

- The admission statistics for undergraduate and graduate students appear to have increased significantly and we will know by the end of the month if the figures are accurate.

4. Proposal to Establish a School of General Studies at Concordia University (FFAC-06-03-17-D1)

Upon arrival of Dr. Singer, the agenda was suspended and the above agenda item advanced. Dr. Singer indicated that he was happy to attend Fine Arts Council and stated that the last time he had attended Council, it was in connection with the Search for Dean. He again thanked the members of the Search Committee for their hard work, as well as the Deans' & Chairs for their support in welcoming Dean Wild to the Faculty. He is confident about Dean Wild's future in Fine Arts.

To facilitate discussion, the following motion was proposed:

MOTION: (R. Kerr, R. Kenneally)

“that the Faculty of Fine Arts Council approves, in principle, the establishment of a School of General Studies, as outlined in Document 06-03-17-D1.”

As a preface to his presentation, Dr. Singer expressed personal feelings of exhilaration about Concordia's growth during the course of the 30 years of his association with the University. There are now more than 43,500 students, and 1,900 professors. In the last 10 years, 500 new tenure-track teachers have been added. Along the way, however, there have been some students who have become disenfranchised, or marginalized from the mainstream. These include the following groups:

1. non-credit students
2. distance education students in web-based courses
3. off-campus students
4. special students - including mature students, independent students, visiting students
5. “at risk” students – those with a low WGPA and with “failed standing”

The more than 3,548 “at risk” students are of particular concern because they represent approximately 10% of the student body.

Concern for the above led to the writing of the draft concept document for a School of General Studies. This School would be an “arm” of the Faculties, working closely with the four Faculties to create a more integrated approach to credit and non-credit teaching. The Faculties would manage curriculum, as well as the hiring of professors to teach these courses. The School would be headed by a Dean who would report to the Provost. The Faculties would reap the benefit of any net revenues generated.

Dr. Singer then asked for questions or comments. L. Lerner wondered why that particular name was chosen – doesn't it cause confusion with the General Education courses? Dr. Singer responded that this is a working title only and that he is open to suggestions. In response, L. Lerner suggested that it may be easier to re-name the General Education courses.

R. Kenneally wondered what financial benefit the School would bring to Concordia. Dr. Singer responded that the School will not cost more than what was spent last year last year, when, for example, e-Concordia received over a million dollars from the operating budget. Questions remain about how to fund the infrastructure and the service side of the courses.

L. Lerner wondered what will happen to “at risk” students who have no financial backing or who have learning disabilities – will they be abandoned if sent to the School?

Dr. Singer believes that “failed” students need a lifeline, and that the School will act as a partner to the Faculties, giving extra help to these students. A “home” will be given to these students, for the first time. In addition, Concordia needs more students and those students need to be helped to be successful. Independent students are an incredible resource for Concordia.. Dr. Singer stated that there is a financial crisis in all Canadian universities and particularly in Quebec. Because of its special needs (budget and space), Fine Arts presents the biggest challenge of the four Faculties in terms of government financing. There is a limit to what the university can provide to Fine Arts. Therefore, much-needed additional revenues could be provided by “off-shore” courses. There is no downside to the proposal.

The document is being forwarded to Councils and Senate simultaneously, with a request that it be approved in principle.

As there was no further discussion, the question was then called and **CARRIED**.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Dean made the following remarks:

- A pilot project that provides graduate tuition remission at the doctoral level has been approved for implementation. Under this plan, Fine Arts would receive 13 graduate tuition remissions. The remissions are for students in terminal degree programmes (i.e. PhD), including MFA students (Fine Arts) and MA students in Creative Writing (Arts & Science). Each Faculty has been assigned a number of remissions, based on raw FTEs. A percentage of unassigned remissions will be held in a pool, and available upon application. This project will be re-evaluated at the end of 2 years to see if there is increased interest and if it helps boost graduate enrolments. Financial support would be allotted for 4 years to a

doctoral student and 2 years for an MFA student. It is available to Canadian students only.

- The Dean will be attending a conference on student retention this week and will report to the next meeting of Council.
- A candidate for the position of Director of Development – Fine Arts has been recommended, and an announcement and start date will be forthcoming.
- There is a new tenure-track hire in Art History, Dr. Sherry Farrell Racette.
- The Chair reminded Council about the April 6 opera gala. Fifty (50%) of the proceeds raised will provide graduate student support in Fine Arts.
- The Awards of Distinction ceremony will be held on May 8.
- Some labour negotiations have been suspended because of personnel changes. They will be re-starting shortly, though responsibility for the academic and non-academic unions will be given to the Provost and the Vice-President, Services, respectively.

6. Question Period

S. Paikowsky asked what the implications are for Fine Arts in regard to the proposal for the General Studies School. Will there be pressure to produce e-courses? Will any money come to Fine Arts? The Chair responded that Fine Arts will need to look at the long-term effect, as the costs will not immediately be offset. In the long term, this should be beneficial, as it both increases enrolments and puts in place a system for student retention.

B. Foss commented that Continuing Education currently offers courses in visual arts and Fine Arts has no knowledge of their curriculum or their teaching staff. Repatriation of these courses to Fine Arts would respond to this situation.

6. Reports from University Committees

Senate – A. Dutkewych

A. Dutkewych presented a brief report from Senate. Apart from budget discussions, there is increased concern that some of the Searches for Senior Administrators are not following existing guidelines, which require consultation with the academic sector when searching for these positions.

Z. Levinson stated that 2 years ago Concordia decided not to go into debt. What happened? Last year there was a \$9 million deficit and what about next year?

The Dean responded that the operating grant from the government has not yet been received but Concordia has projected both costs and revenues, based on existing formulas. Current projections call for an increase of 250 FTEs across the University for next year. The Provost is trying to come up with a reasonable budget that will allow Concordia to function and to continue hiring. The budget proposal will go to the May Board meeting.

A. Dutkewych noted that although all Quebec universities are in deficit, Concordia is in the best shape of all.

7. Reports from the Associate Deans

B. Foss reported that he met with the Departmental Chairs and GPDs regarding increasing our enrolment for next year. He is not sure of the outcome but is hopeful that the actions we are taking will result in substantial increases.

W. Krol reported that the EV shops are fully operational. Regarding space in the Overdale and Bourget Buildings, several new options involving the VA and BE are under discussion and a consultant has been hired to evaluate these proposals.

The Space Allocation Renovation Committee is reactivating 3 projects from 2004. In the Music area, the original cost for renovation to SC02 was \$24,00 and probably work will resume on it. In the VMR, the original cost of the temperature control system was \$64,00. It is now being reevaluated. For the Theatre Prop Shops – PS145, the original estimate for work was \$12,000 and now it is over \$130,000. Health and Safety will reevaluate the work that needs to be done.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Olshaski
March 21, 2006